



TN167

PATENT

#12/c
GW
6/18/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John A. Helgenberger et al. : Art Unit: 3677
Serial No.: 09/443,233 : Examiner: Gary Wayne Estremsky
Filed: November 18, 1999 :
For: LATCHING SYSTEM :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUN 05 2003

GROUP 3600

The applicants request entry of the following amendment prior to examination.

Please replace claims 1, 14, 22, 23, 24, and 25 with the following amended claims.

- CI Sub D1
- 1 1 (Twice Amended) A system for providing releasable engagement between two
2 structures, said system comprising:
- 3 a stud extending outwardly from a first one of said structures along an axis,
4 said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis to define an outer
5 diameter along at least an end portion of said stud; and
- 6 a resilient member secured adjacent a surface of a second one of said
7 structures, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal configuration
8 defining an opening, said opening having a relaxed state smaller than said outer
9 diameter of said end portion of said stud;
- 10 wherein said opening of said resilient member is configured to resiliently
11 contact said stud to expand radially outwardly to permit passage of said end portion
12 of said stud upon application of a force parallel to said axis;